

## "INBRED CORN LINE LH321"

### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

**[0001]** The present invention relates to a new and distinctive corn inbred line, designated LH321. There are numerous steps in the development of any novel, desirable plant germplasm. Plant breeding begins with the analysis and definition of problems and weaknesses of the current germplasm, the establishment of program goals, and the definition of specific breeding objectives. The next step is selection of germplasm that possess the traits to meet the program goals. The goal is to combine in a single variety or hybrid an improved combination of desirable traits from the parental germplasm. These important traits may include higher yield, resistance to diseases and insects, better stalks and roots, tolerance to drought and heat, and better agronomic quality.

**[0002]** Choice of breeding or selection methods depends on the mode of plant reproduction, the heritability of the trait(s) being improved, and the type of cultivar used commercially (e.g.,  $F_1$  hybrid cultivar, pureline cultivar, etc.). For highly heritable traits, a choice of superior individual plants evaluated at a single location will be effective, whereas for traits with low heritability, selection should be based on mean values obtained from replicated evaluations of families of related plants. Popular selection methods commonly include pedigree selection, modified pedigree selection, mass selection, and recurrent selection.

**[0003]** The complexity of inheritance influences choice of the breeding method. Backcross breeding is used to transfer one or a few favorable genes for a highly heritable trait into a desirable cultivar. This approach has been used extensively for breeding disease-resistant cultivars. Various recurrent selection techniques are used to improve quantitatively inherited traits controlled by numerous genes. The use of recurrent selection in self-pollinating crops depends on the ease of pollination, the frequency of successful hybrids from each pollination, and the number of hybrid offspring from each successful cross.

**[0004]** Each breeding program should include a periodic, objective evaluation of the efficiency of the breeding procedure. Evaluation criteria vary depending on the goal and objectives, but should include gain from selection per year based on comparisons

**[0005]** Promising advanced breeding lines are thoroughly tested and compared to appropriate standards in environments representative of the commercial target area(s) for three years at least. The best lines are candidates for new commercial cultivars; those still deficient in a few traits are used as parents to produce new populations for further selection.

**[0007]** A most difficult task is the identification of individuals that are genetically superior, because for most traits the true genotypic value is masked by other confounding plant traits or environmental factors. One method of identifying a superior plant is to observe its performance relative to other experimental plants and to a widely grown standard cultivar. If a single observation is inconclusive, replicated observations provide a better estimate of its genetic worth.

**[0009]** Each year, the plant breeder selects the germplasm to advance to the next generation. This germplasm is grown under unique and different geographical, climatic and soil conditions, and further selections are then made, during and at the end of the growing season. The inbred lines which are developed are unpredictable. This unpredictability is because the breeder's selection occurs in unique environments, with

**[0010]** The development of commercial corn hybrids requires the development of homozygous inbred lines, the crossing of these lines, and the evaluation of the crosses. Pedigree breeding and recurrent selection breeding methods are used to develop inbred lines from breeding populations. Breeding programs combine desirable traits from two or more inbred lines or various broad-based sources into breeding pools from which inbred lines are developed by selfing and selection of desired phenotypes. The new inbreds are crossed with other inbred lines and the hybrids from these crosses are evaluated to determine which have commercial potential.

**[0012]** Mass and recurrent selections can be used to improve populations of either self- or cross-pollinating crops. A genetically variable population of heterozygous individuals is either identified or created by intercrossing several different parents. The best plants are selected based on individual superiority, outstanding progeny, or

**[0013]** Backcross breeding has been used to transfer genes for a simply inherited, highly heritable trait into a desirable homozygous cultivar or inbred line which is the recurrent parent. The source of the trait to be transferred is called the donor parent. The resulting plant is expected to have the attributes of the recurrent parent (e.g., cultivar) and the desirable trait transferred from the donor parent. After the initial cross, individuals possessing the phenotype of the donor parent are selected and repeatedly crossed (backcrossed) to the recurrent parent. The resulting plant is expected to have the attributes of the recurrent parent (e.g., cultivar) and the desirable trait transferred from the donor parent.

**[0015]** Proper testing should detect any major faults and establish the level of superiority or improvement over current cultivars. In addition to showing superior performance, there must be a demand for a new cultivar that is compatible with industry standards or which creates a new market. The introduction of a new cultivar will incur additional costs to the seed producer, the grower, processor and consumer; for special advertising and marketing, altered seed and commercial production practices, and new product utilization. The testing preceding release of a new cultivar should take into consideration research and development costs as well as technical superiority of the final cultivar. For seed-propagated cultivars, it must be feasible to produce seed easily and economically.

**[0016]** Once the inbreds that give the best hybrid performance have been identified, the hybrid seed can be reproduced indefinitely as long as the homogeneity of the inbred parent is maintained. A single-cross hybrid is produced when two inbred lines are crossed to produce the  $F_1$  progeny. A double-cross hybrid is produced from four inbred lines crossed in pairs ( $A \times B$  and  $C \times D$ ) and then the two  $F_1$  hybrids are crossed again  $(A \times B) \times (C \times D)$ . Much of the hybrid vigor exhibited by  $F_1$  hybrids is lost in

the next generation ( $F_2$ ). Consequently, seed from hybrid varieties is not used for planting stock.

**[0017]** Hybrid corn seed is typically produced by a male sterility system incorporating manual or mechanical detasseling. Alternate strips of two corn inbreds are planted in a field, and the pollen-bearing tassels are removed from one of the inbreds (female). Providing that there is sufficient isolation from sources of foreign corn pollen, the ears of the detasseled inbred will be fertilized only from the other inbred (male), and the resulting seed is therefore hybrid and will form hybrid plants.

**[0018]** The laborious, and occasionally unreliable, detasseling process can be avoided by using cytoplasmic male-sterile (CMS) inbreds. Plants of a CMS inbred are male sterile as a result of factors resulting from the cytoplasmic, as opposed to the nuclear, genome. Thus, this characteristic is inherited exclusively through the female parent in corn plants, since only the female provides cytoplasm to the fertilized seed. CMS plants are fertilized with pollen from another inbred that is not male-sterile. Pollen from the second inbred may or may not contribute genes that make the hybrid plants male-fertile. Seed from detasseled fertile corn and CMS produced seed of the same hybrid can be blended to insure that adequate pollen loads are available for fertilization when the hybrid plants are grown.

**[0019]** There are several methods of conferring genetic male sterility available, such as multiple mutant genes at separate locations within the genome that confer male sterility, as disclosed in U. S. Patent Nos. 4,654,465 and 4,727,219 to Brar et al. and chromosomal translocations as described by Patterson in U. S. Patent Nos. 3,861,709 and 3,710,511. These and all patents referred to are incorporated by reference. In addition to these methods, Albertsen et al., U. S. Patent No. 5,432,068 have developed a system of nuclear male sterility which includes: identifying a gene which is critical to male fertility, silencing this native gene which is critical to male fertility; removing the native promoter from the essential male fertility gene and replacing it with an inducible promoter; inserting this genetically engineered gene back into the plant; and thus creating a plant that is male sterile because the inducible promoter is not "on" resulting in the male fertility gene not being transcribed. Fertility is

restored by inducing, or turning "on", the promoter, which in turn allows the gene that confers male fertility to be transcribed.

**[0020]** There are many other methods of conferring genetic male sterility in the art, each with its own benefits and drawbacks. These methods use a variety of approaches such as delivering into the plant a gene encoding a cytotoxic substance associated with a male tissue specific promoter or an anti-sense system in which a gene critical to fertility is identified and an antisense to that gene is inserted in the plant (see, Fabinjanski, et al. EPO 89/3010153.8 publication no. 329, 308 and PCT application PCT/CA90/00037 published as WO 90/08828).

**[0021]** Another version useful in controlling male sterility makes use of gametocides. Gametocides are not a genetic system, but rather a topical application of chemicals. These chemicals affect cells that are critical to male fertility. The application of these chemicals affects fertility in the plants only for the growing season in which the gametocide is applied (see Carlson, G.R., U. S. Patent No. 4,936,904). Application of the gametocide, timing of the application and genotype specifically often limit the usefulness of the approach.

**[0022]** Corn is an important and valuable field crop. Thus, a continuing goal of plant breeders is to develop stable, high yielding corn hybrids that are agronomically sound. The reasons for this goal are obviously to maximize the amount of grain produced on the land used and to supply food for both animals and humans. To accomplish this goal, the corn breeder must select and develop corn plants that have the traits that result in superior parental lines for producing hybrids.

#### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

**[0023]** According to the invention, there is provided a novel inbred corn line, designated LH321. This invention thus relates to the seeds of inbred corn line LH321, to the plants of inbred corn line LH321 and to methods for producing a corn plant produced by crossing the inbred line LH321 with itself or another corn line, and to methods for producing a corn plant containing in its genetic material one or more transgenes and to the transgenic corn plants produced by that method. This invention also relates to methods for producing other inbred corn lines derived from inbred corn

**[0024]** The inbred corn plant of the invention may further comprise, or have, a cytoplasmic factor that is capable of conferring male sterility. Parts of the corn plant of the present invention are also provided, such as e.g., pollen obtained from an inbred plant and an ovule of the inbred plant.

DEFINITIONS

[0026] In the description and tables which follow, a number of terms are used. In

**[0026]** In the description and tables which follow, a number of terms are used. In order to provide a clear and consistent understanding of the specification and claims, including the scope to be given such terms, the following definitions are provided:

**[0028]** MN RM. This represents the Minnesota Relative Maturity Rating (MN RM) for the hybrid and is based on the harvest moisture of the grain relative to a standard set of checks of previously determined MN RM rating. Regression analysis is used to compute this rating.

**[0029]** Yield (Bushels/Acre). The yield in bushels/acre is the actual yield of the grain at harvest adjusted to 15.5% moisture.

**[0030]**      Moisture. The moisture is the actual percentage moisture of the grain at harvest.

**[0031]**      GDU Silk. The GDU silk (= heat unit silk) is the number of growing degree units (GDU) or heat units required for an inbred line or hybrid to reach silk emergence from the time of planting. Growing degree units are calculated by the Barger Method, where the heat units for a 24-hour period are:

$$\text{GDU} = \frac{(\text{Max.} + \text{Min.})}{2} - 50.$$

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The highest maximum used is 86°F and the lowest minimum used is 50°F. For each hybrid, it takes a certain number of GDUs to reach various stages of plant development. GDUs are a way of measuring plant maturity.

**[0032]**      Stalk Lodging. This is the percentage of plants that stalk lodge, i.e., stalk breakage, as measured by either natural lodging or pushing the stalks determining the percentage of plants that break off below the ear. This is a relative rating of a hybrid to other hybrids for standability.

**[0033]**      Root Lodging. The root lodging is the percentage of plants that root lodge; i.e., those that lean from the vertical axis at an approximate 30° angle or greater would be counted as root lodged.

**[0034]**      Plant Height. This is a measure of the height of the hybrid from the ground to the tip of the tassel, and is measured in centimeters.

**[0035]**      Ear Height. The ear height is a measure from the ground to the ear node attachment, and is measured in centimeters.

**[0036]**      Dropped Ears. This is a measure of the number of dropped ears per plot, and represents the percentage of plants that dropped an ear prior to harvest.

**[0037]**      Allele. The allele is any of one or more alternative forms of a gene, all of which alleles relate to one trait or characteristic. In a diploid cell or organism, the two alleles of a given gene occupy corresponding loci on a pair of homologous chromosomes.



**[0038]**     Backcrossing. Backcrossing is a process in which a breeder repeatedly crosses hybrid progeny back to one of the parents, for example, a first generation hybrid  $F_1$  with one of the parental genotypes of the  $F_1$  hybrid.

**[0039]**     Quantitative Trait Loci (QTL). Quantitative trait loci (QTL) refer to genetic loci that control to some degree numerically representable traits that are usually continuously distributed.

**[0040]**     Regeneration. Regeneration refers to the development of a plant from tissue culture.

**[0041]**     Single Gene Converted. Single gene converted or conversion plant refers to plants which are developed by a plant breeding technique called backcrossing wherein essentially all of the desired morphological and physiological characteristics of an inbred are recovered in addition to the single gene transferred into the inbred via the backcrossing technique or via genetic engineering.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

**[0042]**     Inbred corn line LH321 is a yellow dent corn with superior characteristics, and provides an excellent parental line in crosses for producing first generation ( $F_1$ ) hybrid corn.

**[0043]**     Yield, stalk quality, root quality, disease tolerance, late plant greenness, late plant intactness, ear retention, pollen shedding ability, silking ability and corn borer tolerance were the criteria used to determine the rows from which ears were selected.

**[0044]**     Inbred corn line LH321 has the following morphologic and other characteristics (based primarily on data collected at Williamsburg, Iowa).

#### VARIETY DESCRIPTION INFORMATION

**[0045]**     **TYPE:** Dent

**[0046]**     **REGION WHERE DEVELOPED:** Northcentral U.S.

**[0047]**     **MATURITY:**

	<u>Days</u>	<u>Heat Units</u>
From emergence to 50% of plants in silk:	75	1397
From emergence to 50% of plants in pollen	75	1397



Dry Husk Color (65 days after 50% silking): Buff - Munsell Code 7.5YR 7/4

Position of Ear: Upright

Husk Tightness (Rate on scale from 1=very loose to 9=very tight): 5

Husk Extension: Short (ears exposed)

**[0052] EAR: (Husked Ear Data)**

Ear Length: 18.6 cm (1.67)

Ear Diameter at mid-point: 42.7 mm (1.50)

Ear Weight: 142.0 gm (6.16)

Number of Kernel Rows: 11.6 (0.88)

Kernel Rows: Distinct

Row Alignment: Straight

Shank Length: 9.46 cm (2.1)

Ear Taper: Average

**[0053] KERNEL: (Dried)**

Kernel Length: 11.8 mm (0.37)

Kernel Width: 9.7 mm (.51)

Kernel Thickness: 4.1 mm (.30)

Round Kernels (Shape Grade): 32.5% (2.9)

Aleurone Color Pattern: Homozygous

Aleurone Color: White - Munsell Code 2.5Y 8/2

Hard Endosperm Color: Yellow-orange - Munsell Code 7.5YR 7/10

Endosperm Type: Normal Starch

Weight per 100 kernels: 27.2 gm (.82)

**[0054] COB:**

Cob Diameter at Mid-Point: 29.9 mm (1.40)

Cob Color: White - Munsell code 2.5Y 8/2

**[0055] AGRONOMIC TRAITS:**

5 Stay Green (at 65 days after anthesis) (Rate on scale from 1=worst to 9=excellent)

0% Dropped Ears (at 65 days after anthesis)

1000-2000

0% Pre-anthesis Brittle Snapping

0% Pre-anthesis Root Lodging

0% Post-anthesis Root Lodging (at 65 days after anthesis)

**[0056]** This invention is also directed to methods for producing a corn plant by crossing a first parent corn plant with a second parent corn plant, wherein the first or second corn plant is the inbred corn plant from the line LH321. Further, both first and second parent corn plants may be from the inbred line LH321. Therefore, any methods using the inbred corn line LH321 are part of this invention: selfing, backcrosses, hybrid breeding, and crosses to populations. Any plants produced using inbred corn line LH321 as a parent are within the scope of this invention. Advantageously, the inbred corn line is used in crosses with other corn varieties to produce first generation ( $F_1$ ) corn hybrid seed and plants with superior characteristics.

**[0057]** LH321 is similar to LH167, however, there are numerous differences including the glume color. The glume color of LH321 does not exhibit a purple bar or band at the base of the glume while the bar or band on the glume is present at the base of the LH167 glume.

**[0058]** LH321 is a medium season field corn inbred line that flowers similar to LH172 and is a good pollinator and seed parent in the seed production field. LH321 contributes very good stalk and root strength in hybrid combinations. Hybrid maturity is one to two days earlier than comparable LH185 crosses.

**[0059]** Some of the criteria used to select ears in various generations include: yield, stalk quality, root quality, disease tolerance, late plant greenness, late season plant intactness, ear retention, pollen shedding ability, silking ability, and corn borer tolerance. During the development of the line, crosses were made to inbred testers for the purpose of estimating the line's general and specific combining ability, and evaluations were run by the Williamsburg, Iowa Research Station. The inbred was evaluated further as a line and in numerous crosses by the Williamsburg and other research stations across the Corn Belt. The inbred has proven to have a very good combining ability in hybrid combinations.

**[0060]** The inbred has shown uniformity and stability within the limits of environmental influence for the traits. It has been self-pollinated and ear-rowed a sufficient number of generations, with careful attention to uniformity of plant type to ensure homozygosity and phenotypic stability necessary to use in commercial production. The line has been increased both by hand and sibbed in isolated fields with continued observations for uniformity. No variant traits have been observed or are expected in LH321.

#### FURTHER EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION

**[0061]** This invention also is directed to methods for producing a corn plant by crossing a first parent corn plant with a second parent corn plant wherein either the first or second parent corn plant is an inbred corn plant of the line LH321. Further, both first and second parent corn plants can come from the inbred corn line LH321. Still further, this invention also is directed to methods for producing an inbred corn line LH321-derived corn plant by crossing inbred corn line LH321 with a second corn plant and growing the progeny seed, and repeating the crossing and growing steps with the inbred corn line LH321-derived plant from 0 to 7 times. Thus, any such methods using the inbred corn line LH321 are part of this invention: selfing, backcrosses, hybrid production, crosses to populations, and the like. All plants produced using inbred corn line LH321 as a parent are within the scope of this invention, including plants derived from inbred corn line LH321. Advantageously, the inbred corn line is used in crosses with other, different, corn inbreds to produce first generation ( $F_1$ ) corn hybrid seeds and plants with superior characteristics.

**[0062]** It should be understood that the inbred can, through routine manipulation of cytoplasmic or other factors, be produced in a male-sterile form. Such embodiments are also contemplated within the scope of the present claims.

**[0063]** As used herein, the term plant includes plant cells, plant protoplasts, plant cell tissue cultures from which corn plants can be regenerated, plant calli, plant clumps and plant cells that are intact in plants or parts of plants, such as embryos, pollen, ovules, flowers, kernels, ears, cobs, leaves, husks, stalks, roots, root tips, anthers, silk and the like.

**[0065]** Tissue culture of corn is described in European Patent Application, publication 160,390, incorporated herein by reference. Corn tissue culture procedures are also described in Green and Rhodes, "Plant Regeneration in Tissue Culture of Maize," *Maize for Biological Research* (Plant Molecular Biology Association, Charlottesville, VA 367-372, (1982)) and in Duncan et al., "The Production of Callus Capable of Plant Regeneration from Immature Embryos of Numerous *Zea Mays* Genotypes," 165 *Planta* 322:332 (1985). Thus, another aspect of this invention is to provide cells which upon growth and differentiation produce corn plants having the physiological and morphological characteristics of inbred corn line LH321.

**[0067]** With the advent of molecular biological techniques that have allowed the isolation and characterization of genes that encode specific protein products, scientists in the field of plant biology developed a strong interest in engineering the genome of

plants to contain and express foreign genes, or additional, or modified versions of native, or endogenous, genes (perhaps driven by different promoters) in order to alter the traits of a plant in a specific manner. Such foreign additional and/or modified genes are referred to herein collectively as “transgenes”. Over the last fifteen to twenty years several methods for producing transgenic plants have been developed, and the present invention, in particular embodiments, also relates to transformed versions of the claimed inbred line.

**[0068]** Plant transformation involves the construction of an expression vector which will function in plant cells. Such a vector comprises DNA comprising a gene under control of or operatively linked to a regulatory element (for example, a promoter). The expression vector may contain one or more such operably linked gene/regulatory element combinations. The vector(s) may be in the form of a plasmid, and can be used alone or in combination with other plasmids, to provide transformed corn plants, using transformation methods as described below to incorporate transgenes into the genetic material of the corn plant(s).

## Expression Vectors for Corn Transformation

**[0069]** Marker Genes - Expression vectors include at least one genetic marker, operably linked to a regulatory element (a promoter, for example) that allows transformed cells containing the marker to be either recovered by negative selection, i.e., inhibiting growth of cells that do not contain the selectable marker gene, or by positive selection, i.e., screening for the product encoded by the genetic marker. Many commonly used selectable marker genes for plant transformation are well known in the transformation arts, and include, for example, genes that code for enzymes that metabolically detoxify a selective chemical agent which may be an antibiotic or a herbicide, or genes that encode an altered target which is insensitive to the inhibitor. A few positive selection methods are also known in the art.

**[0070]** One commonly used selectable marker gene for plant transformation is the neomycin phosphotransferase II (nptII) gene, isolated from transposon Tn5, which when placed under the control of plant regulatory signals confers resistance to kanamycin. Fraley et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.*, 80:4803 (1983). Another

commonly used selectable marker gene is the hygromycin phosphotransferase gene which confers resistance to the antibiotic hygromycin. Vanden Elzen et al., *Plant Mol. Biol.*, 5:299 (1985).

**[0071]** Additional selectable marker genes of bacterial origin that confer resistance to antibiotics include gentamycin acetyl transferase, streptomycin phosphotransferase, aminoglycoside-3'-adenyl transferase, the bleomycin resistance determinant. Hayford et al., *Plant Physiol.* 86:1216 (1988), Jones et al., *Mol. Gen. Genet.*, 210:86 (1987), Svab et al., *Plant Mol. Biol.* 14:197 (1990) < Hille et al., *Plant Mol. Biol.* 7:171 (1986).

Other selectable marker genes confer resistance to herbicides such as glyphosate, glufosinate or broxynil. Comai et al., *Nature* 317:741-744 (1985), Gordon-Kamm et al., *Plant Cell* 2:603-618 (1990) and Stalker et al., *Science* 242:419-423 (1988).

**[0072]** Other selectable marker genes for plant transformation are not of bacterial origin. These genes include, for example, mouse dihydrofolate reductase, plant 5-enolpyruvylshikimate-3-phosphate synthase and plant acetolactate synthase. Eichholtz et al., *Somatic Cell Mol. Genet.* 13:67 (1987), Shah et al., *Science* 233:478 (1986), Charest et al., *Plant Cell Rep.* 8:643 (1990).

**[0073]** Another class of marker genes for plant transformation require screening of presumptively transformed plant cells rather than direct genetic selection of transformed cells for resistance to a toxic substance such as an antibiotic. These genes are particularly useful to quantify or visualize the spatial pattern of expression of a gene in specific tissues and are frequently referred to as reporter genes because they can be fused to a gene or gene regulatory sequence for the investigation of gene expression. Commonly used genes for screening presumptively transformed cells include  $\beta$ -glucuronidase (GUS,  $\beta$ -galactosidase, luciferase and chloramphenicol, acetyltransferase. Jefferson, R.A., *Plant Mol. Biol. Rep.* 5:387 (1987), Teeri et al., *EMBO J.* 8:343 (1989), Koncz et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci U.S.A.* 84:131 (1987), DeBlock et al., *EMBO J.* 3:1681 (1984). Another approach to the identification of relatively rare transformation events has been use of a gene that encodes a dominant constitutive regulator of the *Zea mays* anthocyanin pigmentation pathway. Ludwig et al., *Science* 247:449 (1990).



**[0074]** Recently, in vivo methods for visualizing GUS activity that do not require destruction of plant tissue have been made available. Molecular Probes publication 2908, Image Green™, p. 1-4 (1993) and Naleway et al., *J. Cell Biol.* 115:151a (1991). However, these in vivo methods for visualizing GUS activity have not proven useful for recovery of transformed cells because of low sensitivity, high fluorescent backgrounds and limitations associated with the use of luciferase genes as selectable markers.

**[0075]** More recently, a gene encoding Green Fluorescent Protein (GFP) has been utilized as a marker for gene expression in prokaryotic and eukaryotic cells. Chalfie et al., *Science* 263:802 (1994). GFP and mutants of GFP may be used as screenable markers.

**[0076]** Promoters - Genes included in expression vectors must be driven by nucleotide sequence comprising a regulatory element, for example, a promoter. Several types of promoters are now well known in the transformation arts, as are other regulatory elements that can be used alone or in combination with promoters.

**[0077]** As used herein, "promoter" includes reference to a region of DNA upstream from the start of transcription and involved in recognition and binding of RNA polymerase and other proteins to initiate transcription. A "plant promoter" is a promoter capable of initiating transcription in plant cells. Examples of promoters under developmental control include promoters that preferentially initiate transcription in certain tissues, such as leaves, roots, seeds, fibers, xylem vessels, tracheids, or sclerenchyma. Such promoters are referred to as "tissue-preferred". Promoters which initiate transcription only in certain tissue are referred to as "tissue-specific". A "cell type" specific promoter primarily drives expression in certain cell types in one or more organs, for example, vascular cells in roots or leaves. An "inducible" promoter is a promoter which is under environmental control. Examples of environmental conditions that may effect transcription by inducible promoters include anaerobic conditions or the presence of light. Tissue-specific, tissue-preferred, cell type specific, and inducible promoters constitute the class of "non-constitutive" promoters. A "constitutive" promoter is a promoter which is active under most environmental conditions.

**[0078] A. Inducible Promoters**

**[0079]** An inducible promoter is operably linked to a gene for expression in corn. Optionally, the inducible promoter is operably linked to a nucleotide sequence encoding a signal sequence which is operably linked to a gene for expression in corn. With an inducible promoter the rate of transcription increases in response to an inducing agent.

**[0080]** Any inducible promoter can be used in the instant invention. See Ward et al., *Plant Mol. Biol.* 22:361-366 (1993). Exemplary inducible promoters include, but are not limited to, that from the ACEI system which responds to copper (Meft et al., *PNAS* 90:4567-4571 (1993)); In2 gene from maize which responds to benzenesulfonamide herbicide safeners (Hershey et al., *Mol. Gen. Genetics* 227:229-237 (1991) and Gatz et al., *Mol. Gen. Genetics* 243:32-38 (1994)) or Tet repressor from Tn10 (Gatz et al., *Mol. Gen. Genetics* 227:229-237 (1991)). A particularly preferred inducible promoter is a promoter that responds to an inducing agent to which plants do not normally respond. An exemplary inducible promoter is the inducible promoter from a steroid hormone gene, the transcriptional activity of which is induced by a glucocorticosteroid hormone. Schena et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 88:0421 (1991).

**[0081] B. Constitutive Promoters**

**[0082]** A constitutive promoter is operably linked to a gene for expression in corn or the constitutive promoter is operably linked to a nucleotide sequence encoding a signal sequence which is operably linked to a gene for expression in corn.

**[0083]** Many different constitutive promoters can be utilized in the instant invention. Exemplary constitutive promoters include, but are not limited to, the promoters from plant viruses such as the 35S promoter from CaMV (Odell et al., *Nature* 313:810-812 (1985) and the promoters from such genes as rice actin (McElroy et al., *Plant Cell* 2:163-171 (1990)); ubiquitin (Christensen et al., *Plant Mol. Biol.* 12:619-632 (1989) and Christensen et al., *Plant Mol. Biol.* 18:675-689 (1992)); pEMU (Last et al., *Theor. Appl. Genet.* 81:581-588 (1991)); MAS (Velten et al., *EMBO J.* 3:2723-2730 (1984)) and maize H3 histone (Lepetit et al., *Mol. Gen. Genetics* 231:276-285 (1992) and Atanassova et al., *Plant Journal* 2 (3): 291-300 (1992)).

**[0084]** The ALS promoter, Xba1/NcoI fragment 5' to the *Brassica napus* ALS3 structural gene (or a nucleotide sequence similarity to said Xba1/NcoI fragment), represents a particularly useful constitutive promoter. See PCT application WO96/30530.

**[0085]** C. Tissue-specific or Tissue-preferred Promoters

**[0086]** A tissue-specific promoter is operably linked to a gene for expression in corn. Optionally, the tissue-specific promoter is operably linked to a nucleotide sequence encoding a signal sequence which is operably linked to a gene for expression in corn. Plants transformed with a gene of interest operably linked to a tissue-specific promoter produce the protein product of the transgene exclusively, or preferentially, in a specific tissue.

**[0087]** Any tissue-specific or tissue-preferred promoter can be utilized in the instant invention. Exemplary tissue-specific or tissue-preferred promoters include, but are not limited to, a root-preferred promoter, such as that from the phaseolin gene (Murai et al., *Science* 23:476-482 (1983) and Sengupta-Gopalan et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 82:3320-3324 (1985)); a leaf-specific and light-induced promoter such as that from cab or rubisco (Simpson et al., *EMBO J.* 4(11):2723-2729 (1985) and Timko et al., *Nature* 318:579-582 (1985)); an anther-specific promoter such as that from LAT52 (Twell et al., *Mol. Gen. Genetics* 217:240-245 (1989)); a pollen-specific promoter such as that from Zm13 (Guerrero et al., *Mol. Gen. Genetics* 244:161-168 (1993)) or a microspore-preferred promoter such as that from apg (Twell et al., *Sex. Plant Reprod.* 6:217-224 (1993)).

## Signal Sequences for Targeting Proteins to Subcellular Compartments

**[0088]** Transport of protein produced by transgenes to a subcellular compartment such as the chloroplast, vacuole, peroxisome, glyoxysome, cell wall or mitochondrion or for secretion into the apoplast, is accomplished by means of operably linking the nucleotide sequence encoding a signal sequence to the 5' and/or 3' region of a gene encoding the protein of interest. Targeting sequences at the 5' and/or 3' end of the structural gene may determine, during protein synthesis and processing, where the encoded protein is ultimately compartmentalized.

## Foreign Protein Genes and Agronomic Genes

**[0091]** According to a preferred embodiment, the transgenic plant provided for commercial production of foreign protein is corn. In another preferred embodiment, the biomass of interest is seed. For the relatively small number of transgenic plants that show higher levels of expression, a genetic map can be generated, primarily via conventional RFLP, PCR and SSR analysis, which identifies the approximate chromosomal location of the integrated DNA molecule. For exemplary methodologies in this regard, see Glick and Thompson, *Methods in Plant Molecular Biology and Biotechnology CRC Press, Boca Raton* 269:284 (1993). Map information concerning chromosomal location is useful for proprietary protection of a subject transgenic plant. If unauthorized propagation is undertaken and crosses made with other germplasm, the

map of the integration region can be compared to similar maps for suspect plants, to determine if the latter have a common parentage with the subject plant. Map comparisons would involve hybridizations, RFLP, PCR, SSR and sequencing, all of which are conventional techniques.

**[0092]** Likewise, by means of the present invention, agronomic genes can be expressed in transformed plants. More particularly, plants can be genetically engineered to express various phenotypes of agronomic interest. Exemplary genes implicated in this regard include, but are not limited to, those categorized below:

**[0093]** 1. Genes That Confer Resistance to Pests or Disease and That Encode:

**[0094]** A. Plant disease resistance genes. Plant defenses are often activated by specific interaction between the product of a disease resistance gene (R) in the plant and the product of a corresponding avirulence (Avr) gene in the pathogen. A plant inbred line can be transformed with cloned resistance gene to engineer plants that are resistant to specific pathogen strains. See, for example Jones et al., *Science* 266:789 (1994) (cloning of the tomato Cf-9 gene for resistance to *Cladosporium fulvum*); Martin et al., *Science* 262:1432 (1993) (tomato Pto gene for resistance to *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. Tomato encodes a protein kinase); Mindrinos et al., *Cell* 78:1089 (1994) (Arabidopsis RSP2 gene for resistance to *Pseudomonas syringae*).

**[0095]** B. A *Bacillus thuringiensis* protein, a derivative thereof or a synthetic polypeptide modeled thereon. See, for example, Geiser et al., *Gene* 48:109 (1986), who disclose the cloning and nucleotide sequence of a Bt  $\delta$ -endotoxin gene. Moreover, DNA molecules encoding  $\delta$ -endotoxin genes can be purchased from American Type Culture Collection, Manassas, Virginia, for example, under ATCC Accession Nos. 40098, 67136, 31995 and 31998.

**[0096]** C. A lectin. See, for example, the disclose by Van Damme et al., *Plant Molec. Biol.* 24:25 (1994), who disclose the nucleotide sequences of several *Clivia miniata* mannose-binding lectin genes.

**[0097]** D. A vitamin-binding protein such as avidin. See PCT application US93/06487, the contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference. The

application teaches the use of avidin and avidin homologues as larvicides against insect pests.

**[0098]** E. An enzyme inhibitor, for example, a protease or proteinase inhibitor or an amylase inhibitor. See, for example, Abe et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 262:16793 (1987) (nucleotide sequence of rice cysteine proteinase inhibitor), Huub et al., *Plant Molec. Biol.* 21:985 (1993) (nucleotide sequence of cDNA encoding tobacco proteinase inhibitor I), Sumitani et al., *Biosci. Biotech. Biochem.* 57:1243 (1993) (nucleotide sequence of *Streptomyces nitrosporeus*  $\alpha$ -amylase inhibitor).

**[0099]** F. An insect-specific hormone or pheromone such as an ecdysteroid and juvenile hormone, a variant thereof, a mimetic based thereon, or an antagonist or agonist thereof. See, for example, the disclosure by Hammock et al., *Nature* 344:458 (1990), of baculovirus expression of cloned juvenile hormone esterase, an inactivator of juvenile hormone.

**[0100]** G. An insect-specific peptide or neuropeptide which, upon expression, disrupts the physiology of the affected pest. For example, see the disclosures of Regan, *J. Biol. Chem.* 269:9 (1994) (expression cloning yields DNA coding for insect diuretic hormone receptor), and Pratt et al., *Biochem. Biophys. Res. Comm.* 163:1243 (1989) (an allostatin is identified in *Diploptera punctata*). See also U. S. Patent No. 5,266,317 to Tomalski et al., who disclose genes encoding insect-specific, paralytic neurotoxins.

**[0101]** H. An insect-specific venom produced in nature by a snake, a wasp, etc. For example, see Pang et al., *Gene* 116:165 (1992), for disclosure of heterologous expression in plants of a gene coding for a scorpion insectotoxic peptide.

**[0102]** I. An enzyme responsible for a hyper accumulation of a monoterpane, a sesquiterpene, a steroid, hydroxamic acid, a phenylpropanoid derivative or another non-protein molecule with insecticidal activity.

**[0103]** J. An enzyme involved in the modification, including the post-translational modification, of a biologically active molecule; for example, a glycolytic enzyme, a proteolytic enzyme, a lipolytic enzyme, a nuclease, a cyclase, a transaminase, an esterase, a hydrolase, a phosphatase, a kinase, a phosphorylase, a polymerase, an

**[0104]** K. A molecule that stimulates signal transduction. For example, see the disclosure by Botella et al., *Plant Molec. Biol.* 24:757 (1994), of nucleotide sequences for mung bean calmodulin cDNA clones, and Griess et al., *Plant Physiol.* 104:1467 (1994), who provide the nucleotide sequence of a maize calmodulin cDNA clone.

**[0106]** M. A membrane permease, a channel former or a channel blocker. For example, see the disclosure of Jaynes et al., *Plant Sci* 89:43 (1993), of heterologous expression of a cecropin- $\beta$ , lytic peptide analog to render transgenic tobacco plants resistant to *Pseudomonas solanacearum*.

**[0107]** N. A viral-invasive protein or a complex toxin derived therefrom. For example, the accumulation of viral coat proteins in transformed plant cells imparts resistance to viral infection and/or disease development effected by the virus from which the coat protein gene is derived, as well as by related viruses. See Beachy et al., *Ann. rev. Phytopathol.* 28:451 (1990). Coat protein-mediated resistance has been conferred upon transformed plants against alfalfa mosaic virus, cucumber mosaic virus, tobacco streak virus, potato virus X, potato virus Y, tobacco etch virus, tobacco rattle virus and tobacco mosaic virus. Id.

**[0108]** O. An insect-specific antibody or an immunotoxin derived therefrom. Thus, an antibody targeted to a critical metabolic function in the insect gut would inactivate an affected enzyme, killing the insect. Cf. Taylor et al., Abstract #497, Seventh Int'l Symposium on Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions (Edinburgh, Scotland) (1994) (enzymatic inactivation in transgenic tobacco via production of single-chain antibody fragments).

**[0109]** P. A virus-specific antibody. See, for example, Tavladoraki et al., *Nature* 366:469 (1993), who show that transgenic plants expressing recombinant antibody genes are protected from virus attack.

**[0110]** Q. A developmental-arrestive protein produced in nature by a pathogen or a parasite. Thus, fungal endo  $\alpha$ -1, 4-D-polygalacturonases facilitate fungal colonization and plant nutrient release by solubilizing plant cell wall homo- $\alpha$ -1,4-D-galacturonase. See Lamb et al., *Bio/Technology* 10:1436 (1992). The cloning and characterization of a gene which encodes a bean endopolygalacturonase-inhibiting protein is described by Toubart et al., *Plant J.* 2:367 (1992).

**[0111]** R. A development-arrestive protein produced in nature by a plant. For example, Logemann et al., *Bioi/Technology* 10:305 (1992), have shown that transgenic plants expressing the barley ribosome-inactivating gene have an increased resistance to fungal disease.

**[0112]** 2. Genes That Confer Resistance to a Herbicide, For Example:

**[0113]** A. A herbicide that inhibits the growing point or meristem, such as an imidazalinone or a sulfonylurea. Exemplary genes in this category code for mutant ALS and AHAS enzyme as described, for example, by Lee et al., *EMBO J.* 7:1241 (1988), and Miki et al., *Theor. Appl. Genet.* 80:449 (1990), respectively.

**[0114]** B. Glyphosate (resistance impaired by mutant 5-enolpyruvyl-3-phosphikimate synthase (EPSP) and *aroA* genes, respectively) and other phosphono compounds such as glufosinate (phosphinothricin acetyl transferase, PAT and *Streptomyces hygroscopicus* phosphinothricin-acetyl transferase, *bar*, genes), and pyridinoxy or phenoxy propionic acids and cyclohexones (ACCase inhibitor-encoding genes). See, for example, U. S. Patent No. 4,940,835 to Shah, et al., which discloses



**[0115]** C. A herbicide that inhibits photosynthesis, such as a triazine (psbA and gs+ genes) and a benzonitrile (nitrilase gene). Przibilla et al., *Plant Cell* 3:169 (1991), describe the transformation of *Chlamydomonas* with plasmids encoding mutant psbA genes. Nucleotide sequences for nitrilase genes are disclosed in U. S. Patent No. 4,810,648 to Stalker, and DNA molecules containing these genes are available under ATCC Accession Nos. 53435, 67441, and 67442. Cloning and expression of DNA coding for a glutathione S-transferase is described by Hayes et al., *Biochem. J.* 285:173 (1992).

**[0117]** A. Modified fatty acid metabolism, for example, by transforming a plant with an antisense gene of stearyl-ACP desaturase to increase stearic acid content of the plant. See Knultzon et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 89:2624 (1992).

**[0119]** 1) Introduction of a phytase-encoding gene would enhance breakdown of phytate, adding more free phosphate to the transformed plant. For example, see Van Hartingsveldt et al., *Gene* 127:87 (1993), for a disclosure of the nucleotide sequence of an *Aspergillus niger* phytase gene.

**[0120]** 2) A gene could be introduced that reduced phytate content. In maize, this, for example, could be accomplished, by cloning and then reintroducing DNA associated with the single allele which is responsible for maize mutants characterized by low levels of phytic acid. See Raboy et al., *Maydica* 35:383 (1990).

**[0121]** C. Modified carbohydrate composition effected, for example, by transforming plants with a gene coding for an enzyme that alters the branching pattern of starch. See Shiroza et al., *J. Bacteol.* 170:810 (1988) (nucleotide sequence of *Streptococcus mutants* fructosyltransferase gene), Steinmetz et al., *Mol. Gen. Genet.* 20:220 (1985) (nucleotide sequence of *Bacillus subtilis* levansucrase gene), Pen et al., *Bio/Technology* 10:292 (1992) (production of transgenic plants that express *Bacillus licheniformis*  $\alpha$ -amylase), Elliot et al., *Plant Molec. Biol.* 21:515 (1993) (nucleotide sequences of tomato invertase genes), Sogaard et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 268:22480 (1993) (site-directed mutagenesis of barley  $\alpha$ -amylase gene), and Fisher et al., *Plant Physiol.* 102:1045 (1993) (maize endosperm starch branching enzyme II).

#### Methods for Corn Transformation

**[0122]** Numerous methods for plant transformation have been developed, including biological and physical, plant transformation protocols. See, for example, Miki et al., "Procedures for Introducing Foreign DNA into Plants" in *Methods in Plant Molecular Biology and Biotechnology*, Glick B.R. and Thompson, J. E. Eds. (CRC Press, Inc., Boca Raton, 1993) pages 67-88. In addition, expression vectors and in vitro culture methods for plant cell or tissue transformation and regeneration of plants are available. See, for example, Gruber et al., "Vectors for Plant Transformation" in *Methods in Plant Molecular Biology and Biotechnology*, Glick B.R. and Thompson, J. E. Eds. (CRC Press, Inc., Boca Raton, 1993) pages 89-119.

**[0123]** A. Agrobacterium-mediated Transformation

**[0124]** One method for introducing an expression vector into plants is based on the natural transformation system of Agrobacterium. See, for example, Horsch et al., *Science* 227:1229 (1985). *A. tumefaciens* and *A. rhizogenes* are plant pathogenic soil bacteria which genetically transform plant cells. The Ti and Ri plasmids of *A. tumefaciens* and *A. rhizogenes*, respectively, carry genes responsible for genetic

transformation of the plant. See, for example, Kado, C. I., *Crit. Rev. Plant Sci.* 10:1 (1991). Descriptions of Agrobacterium vector systems and methods for Agrobacterium-mediated gene transfer are provided by Gruber et al., *supra*, Miki et al., *supra*, and Moloney et al., *Plant Cell Reports* 8:238 (1989). See also, U. S. Patent No. 5,591,616 issued January 7, 1997.

**[0125] B. Direct Gene Transfer**

**[0126]** Despite the fact the host range for Agrobacterium-mediated transformation is broad, some major cereal crop species and gymnosperms have generally been recalcitrant to this mode of gene transfer, even though some success has recently been achieved in rice and corn. Hiei et al., *The Plant Journal* 6:271-282 (1994) and U. S. Patent No. 5,591,616 issued January 7, 1997. Several methods of plant transformation, collectively referred to as direct gene transfer, have been developed as an alternative to Agrobacterium-mediated transformation.

**[0127]** A generally applicable method of plant transformation is microprojectile-mediated transformation wherein DNA is carried on the surface of microprojectiles measuring 1 to 4  $\mu\text{m}$ . The expression vector is introduced into plant tissues with a biolistic device that accelerates the microprojectiles to speeds of 300 to 600 m/s which is sufficient to penetrate plant cell walls and membranes. Sanford et al., *Part. Sci. Technol.* 5:27 (1987), Sanford, J.C., *Trends Biotech.* 6:299 (1988), Klein et al., *Bio/Technology* 6:559-563 (1988), Sanford, J.C., *Physiol Plant* 7:206 (1990), Klein et al., *Biotechnology* 10:268 (1992). In corn, several target tissues can be bombarded with DNA-coated microprojectiles in order to produce transgenic plants, including, for example, callus (Type I or Type II), immature embryos, and meristematic tissue.

**[0128]** Another method for physical delivery of DNA to plants is sonication of target cells. Zhang et al., *Bio/Technology* 9:996 (1991). Alternatively, liposome or spheroplast fusion have been used to introduce expression vectors into plants. Deshayes et al., *EMBO J.*, 4:2731 (1985), Christou et al., *Proc Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 84:3962 (1987). Direct uptake of DNA into protoplasts using  $\text{CaCl}_2$  precipitation, polyvinyl alcohol or poly-L-ornithine have also been reported. Hain et al., *Mol. Gen. Genet.* 199:161 (1985) and Draper et al., *Plant Cell Physiol.* 23:451 (1982).

**[0129]** Following transformation of corn target tissues, expression of the above-described selectable marker genes allows for preferential selection of transformed cells, tissues and/or plants, using regeneration and selection methods now well known in the art.

**[0131]** When the term inbred corn plant is used in the context of the present invention, this also includes any single gene conversions of that inbred. The term single gene converted plant as used herein refers to those corn plants which are developed by a plant breeding technique called backcrossing wherein essentially all of the desired morphological and physiological characteristics of an inbred are recovered in addition to the single gene transferred into the inbred via the backcrossing technique. Backcrossing methods can be used with the present invention to improve or introduce a characteristic into the inbred. The term backcrossing as used herein refers to the repeated crossing of a hybrid progeny back to one of the parental corn plants for that inbred. The parental corn plant which contributes the gene for the desired characteristic is termed the nonrecurrent or donor parent. This terminology refers to the

**[0132]** The selection of a suitable recurrent parent is an important step for a successful backcrossing procedure. The goal of a backcross protocol is to alter or substitute a single trait or characteristic in the original inbred. To accomplish this, a single gene of the recurrent inbred is modified or substituted with the desired gene from the nonrecurrent parent, while retaining essentially all of the rest of the desired genetic, and therefore the desired physiological and morphological, constitution of the original inbred. The choice of the particular nonrecurrent parent will depend on the purpose of the backcross, one of the major purposes is to add some commercially desirable, agronomically important trait to the plant. The exact backcrossing protocol will depend on the characteristic or trait being altered to determine an appropriate testing protocol. Although backcrossing methods are simplified when the characteristic being transferred is a dominant allele, a recessive allele may also be transferred. In this instance it may be necessary to introduce a test of the progeny to determine if the desired characteristic has been successfully transferred.

**[0133]** Many single gene traits have been identified that are not regularly selected for in the development of a new inbred but that can be improved by backcrossing techniques. Single gene traits may or may not be transgenic, examples of these traits include but are not limited to, male sterility, waxy starch, herbicide resistance, resistance for bacterial, fungal, or viral disease, insect resistance, male fertility,

**[0134] Industrial Applicability**

**[0136]** Corn, including both grain and non-grain portions of the plant, is also used extensively as livestock feed, primarily for beef cattle, dairy cattle, hogs and poultry.

**[0138]** Plant parts other than the grain of corn are also used in industry, for example: stalks and husks are made into paper and wallboard and cobs are used for fuel and to make charcoal.

**[0139]** The seed of inbred corn line LH321, the plant produced from the inbred seed, the hybrid corn plant produced from the crossing of the inbred, hybrid seed, and various parts of the hybrid corn plant and transgenic versions of the foregoing, can be utilized for human food, livestock feed, and as a raw material in industry.

### TABLES

**[0140]** In the tables that follow, the traits and characteristics of inbred corn line LH321 are given in hybrid combination. The data collected on inbred corn line LH321 is presented for the key characteristics and traits. The tables present yield test information about LH321. LH321 was tested in several hybrid combinations at numerous locations, with two or three replications per location. Information about these hybrids, as compared to several check hybrids, is presented.

**[0141]** The first pedigree listed in the comparison group is the hybrid containing LH321. Information for the pedigree includes:

**[0142]** 1. Mean yield of the hybrid across all locations.

**[0143]** 2. A mean for the percentage moisture (% M) for the hybrid across all locations.

**[0144]** 3. A mean of the yield divided by the percentage moisture (Y/M) for the hybrid across all locations.

**[0145]** 4. A mean of the percentage of plants with stalk lodging (% Stalk) across all locations.

**[0146]** 5. A mean of the percentage of plants with root lodging (% Root) across all locations.

**[0147]** 6. A mean of the percentage of plants with dropped ears (% Drop).

**[0148]** 7. A mean of the plant height (Plant Hgt) in centimeters.

**[0149]** 8. A mean of the ear height (Ear Hgt) in centimeters

**[0150]** 9. The number of locations indicates the locations where these hybrids were tested together.

**[0151]** The series of hybrids listed under the hybrid containing LH321 are considered check hybrids. The check hybrids are compared to hybrids containing the inbred LH321.

**[0152]** The (+) or (-) sign in front of each number in each of the columns indicates how the mean values across plots of the hybrid containing inbred LH321 compare to the check crosses. A (+) or (-) sign in front of the number indicates that the mean of the hybrid containing inbred LH321 was greater or lesser, respectively, than the mean of

the check hybrid. For example, a +4 in yield signifies that the hybrid containing inbred LH321 produced 4 bushels more corn than the check hybrid. If the value of the stalks has a (-) in front of the number 2, for example, then the hybrid containing the inbred LH321 had 2% less stalk lodging than the check hybrid.

### TABLE 1

OVERALL COMPARISONS HC33 x LH321 HYBRID VERSUS CHECK HYBRIDS								
Pedigree	Mean Yield	% M	Y/M	% Stalk	% Root	% Drop	Plant Hgt	Ear Hgt
HC33 x LH321	195	16.60	11.80	4	3	0	104	41
(at 16 Loc's) As Compared To:								
HC33 x LH172	187	16.40	11.40	5	2	0	100	42
HC33 x LH279	194	16.40	11.80	7	10	0	109	45
LH198 x LH172	187	17.00	11.00	6	2	0	96	42

## TABLE 2

OVERALL COMPARISONS LH227 X LH321 HYBRID VERSUS CHECK HYBRIDS								
Pedigree	Mean Yield	% M	Y/M	% Stalk	% Root	% Drop	Plant Hgt	Ear Hgt
LH227 x LH321	178	16.50	10.80	5	8	0	113	38
(at 14 Loc's) As Compared To:								
LH227 x LH321	181	17.20	10.60	7	10	0	120	44
LH227 x LH277	176	16.00	11.10	7	7	0	110	37
LH302 x LH185	164	15.90	10.30	7	6	0	115	39



## OVERALL COMPARISONS

## LH200 x LH321 HYBRID VERSUS CHECK HYBRIDS

OVERALL COMPARISONS LH200 x LH321 HYBRID VERSUS CHECK HYBRIDS								
Pedigree	Mean Yield	% M	Y/M	% Stalk	% Root	% Drop	Plant Hgt	Ear Hgt
LH200 x LH321	167	16.40	10.20	18	5	0	113	45
(at 15 Loc's) As Compared To:								
LH200 x LH167	153	15.60	9.90	20	1	0	114	45
LH227 x LH185	173	15.70	11.00	21	3	0	120	40

## OVERALL COMPARISONS

## LH303 X LH321 HYBRID VERSUS CHECK HYBRIDS

OVERALL COMPARISONS LH303 X LH321 HYBRID VERSUS CHECK HYBRIDS								
Pedigree	Mean Yield	% M	Y/M	% Stalk	% Root	% Drop	Plant Hgt	Ear Hgt
LH303 x LH321	163	16.40	10.00	2	1	0	114	36
(at 8 Loc's) As Compared To:								
LH303 x LH185	164	16.70	9.80	3	2	1	121	47
LH227 x LH176	167	16.60	10.10	2	12	0	115	51

**[0154]** Although the foregoing invention has been described in some detail by way of illustration and example for purposes of clarity and understanding. However, it will be obvious that certain changes and modifications such as single gene modifications and mutations, somoclonal variants, variant individuals selected from large populations of the plants of the instant inbred and the like may be practiced within the scope of the invention, as limited only by the scope of the appended claims.